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| **Keywords:** | TSAG; ITU-T Operational Plan; ITU Regional Presence; |
| **Abstract:** | This document summarizes contribution of the ITU Regional Offices to the implementation of the ITU-T four-year rolling operational plan as requested by the Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai 2018) of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. |

**0. Introduction**

Plenipotentiary Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) “Strengthening the regional presence” introduces new reporting mandates for the regional and area offices to the advisory groups:

“resolves

4              that the regional and area offices should contribute, to the extent practicable, *inter* *alia*, to the annual four-year rolling operational plans of the General Secretariat and of the three Sectors, with content specific to each regional and area office, linked to the strategic plan for the Union for 2020‑2023 and the Buenos Aires Action Plan, then set up and continue to publish the annual plan/events on the ITU website for implementation;”

“further resolves

2              that regional offices shall regularly provide reports to the Sector advisory groups, as appropriate, and to inform the Directors of BR and TSB on regional activities related to their respective Sectors,”

Below please find a first report from the Directors of the regional offices which. Given the short amount of time available between PP-18 and TSAG, the report will be fine-tuned for the next TSAG meeting.

In 2018, regular one-on-one calls took place about every two months between each of the Regional Directors and the TSB Director and his management team to synchronize both sides.

**1 Regional Office for Africa**

**1.1 Participation/Contribution of Regional Office for Africa in ITU-T events**

In 2018, the ITU Regional Office for Africa participated and contributed to the organization of the following regional events organized by ITU-T/TSB:

* The 6th SG13 Regional Workshop for Africa held in Abidjan, Cote D’Ivoire, 28 – 29 March 2018 under the theme "Standardization of future networks: What opportunities for Africa?"
* 8th ITU Green Standard week held in partnership with ITU, UN Habitat, United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Industrial Development Organization​ (UNIDO),​ Basel Convention and UN Environment held in Zanzibar, Tanzania 9-12 April, 2018 with the theme “Linking circular economy and industry 4.0”. Events included the ITU-T Study Group 5&20 for the Regional Group for Africa and the BDT training on e-waste statistics.
* SG12RG-AFR meetings organized in Dakar, Senegal, 19-23 March 2018, with the support and participation of the Area Office for West Africa.
The details of the meetings are presented below:
	+ ITU-T Workshop on "Quality of Service, Quality of Service and Quality of Experience for Multimedia Services", 19 - 20 March 2018
	+ Rapporteur's Group Meeting for Question 12/12 entitled "Operational Aspects of the Quality of Service of Telecommunication Networks", 21 - 22 March 2018
	+ Meeting of ITU-T Study Group 12 Regional Group for Africa (SG12RG-AFR),
	22 - 23 March 2018

**1.2 Other activities of the ITU Regional Office for Africa related to the ITU-T**

* In 2018 April/May ITU-T/TSB contributed to the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) of 2 participants and 8 fellowship respectively during the C&I Training for the Africa Region in Tunis, Tunisia.

**1.3 Considerations by the Regional Office for Africa for the effective implementation of PP-18 Resolution 25 “Strengthening the Regional Presence” (Rev. Dubai)**

* Enhance partnership with TSB and the ITU-T Study Groups in the implementation of [Regional Initiatives](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cgaspari%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CY97C2IUS%5C%28https%3A%5Cwww.itu.int%5Cen%5CITU-D%5CRegional-Presence%5CAfrica%5CDocuments%5CRDF%202018%5CRI_AFRICA-2018-2021BROCHURE-FINAL.pdf).
* Specific attention is drawn to:
Regional Initiative 1 (AFR 1) - Building digital economies and fostering innovation in Africa and
Regional Initiative 2 (AFR 2) - Promotion of emerging broadband technologies
* Designate Regional Office for Africa focal points for ITU-T areas of action including Study Groups and Focus Groups to enhance coordination.
* Advance planning with TSB to ensure that the Regional Office for Africa has full visibility on the Operational Plan of TSB in order to present an Operational Plan for the Region that includes actions of all Bureaux in the Region as requested by PP-18 Resolution 25 and that budget allocation and actions are included in ROA operational plan.

**2 Regional Office for the Americas**

**2.1 ITU-T events held in the Americas Region**

Over a dozen events took place in the Americas region in the period between April and November 2018. Particular support was given to the following meetings:

* Facilitation of ITU-T SG 9 “Broadband cable and TV” (21 – 28 November 2018)
* Facilitation of the ITU workshop on “The Future of TV for the Americas” (26 November 2018) in Bogotá, Colombia, jointly organized by TSB and BDT, with an area office colleague on the programme committee.
* Provisioning of speakers from the region for the World Smart City Forum in Santa Fé, Argentina, 29 November 2018, organized by ITU, ISO and IEC to explore the urban-development challenges most relevant to cities in the Americas.
* Outreach to speakers and promotion for the ITU Kaleidoscope conference on Machine learning for a 5G future, Santa Fé, Argentina, 26-28 November 2018.

**3 Arab Regional Office**

In 2018, the ITU Arab Regional Office participated and contributed to the organization of the following regional events organized by ITU-T/TSB:

1. **ITU Forum & Training on “With ICTs everywhere - How safe is EMF?” and Training on E-waste Statistics** (Zanzibar, Tanzania, 9 -12 April 2018)The events were organized as part of the ITU Green Standards Week (GSW), 9 - 12 April 2018. The programme of the ITU Green Standard Week was:
	* 12th ITU Symposium on ICT, Environment and Climate Change, 9 April 2018 (morning)
	* ITU-T Study Group 5 Regional Group for Africa (SG5RG-AFR), 9 April 2018 (afternoon)
	* Forum & Training on With ICT's everywhere - How safe is EMF?, 10 April 2018 (morning)
	* ITU-T Study Group 5 Regional Group for the Arab Region (SG5RG-ARB) & ITU-T Study Group 20 Regional Group for Africa (SG20RG-AFR), 10 April 2018 (afternoon)
	* Forum on Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things in the development of Smart Sustainable Cities, 11 April 2018 (morning)
	* ITU-T Study Group 20 Regional Group for Africa (SG20RG-AFR), 11 April 2018 (afternoon)

The ITU Arab Regional Office organized the following activities in close collaboration with ITU-T/TSB:

1. **Training on E-waste Statistics**, 12 April 2018 as part of the ITU Green Standards Week
2. **ITU Regional Workshop on Telecom Numbering Planning and Policies for Arab and Africa Region,** Tunis, Tunisia, 25 April 2018The workshop was organized back-to-back with the first Meeting of ITU-T SG2 Regional Group for the Arab Region and for Africa (SG2RG- ARB & SG2RG-AFR); Tunis, Tunisia, 26 and 27 April 2018.
3. **Regional Cybersecurity Week 2018 for the Arab Region** (Kuwait, 21-25 October 2018)
The programme of the week was organized as follows:
	* 7th Regional Cybersecurity Summit, 21- 22 October 2018
	* 6th Regional Cyber Drill ALERT (Applied Learning for Emergency Response Teams), 23- 25 October 2018
	* Second Meeting of the ITU–T Study Group 17 Regional Group for the Arab Region (SG17RG-ARB), 25 October 2018.
4. **6th Annual Arab Cybersecurity Cooperation Team meeting (ACCT)** (22 October 2018)
Furthermore, local coordination with the host and technical support was provided for the following ITU-T events:
	* Interregional Workshop on Numbering, Cairo, Egypt, 2-4 December 2018
	* Second Meeting of ITU-T SG2 Regional Group for Arab and Africa
	(SG2RG- ARB & SG2RG-AFR), Cairo, Egypt, 5-6 December 2018
5. **ITU Annual Regional Forum on Internet of Things, Smart Cities and Big Data for Arab Region to be held on Kuwait City, Kuwait 17 December 2018.**

The forum will be organizedduring the ITU Week events for the Arab Region, 17-20 December 2018. The programme of the week is as follows:

* + 17 December 2018: ITU Annual Regional Forum on IoT, Smart Cities and Big Data
	+ 17 December 2018: Regional Standardization Forum (RSF)
	+ 18 December 2018: ITU-T Study Group5 Regional Group for the Arab Region
	(SG5RG-ARB)
	+ 19 December 2018: ITU-T Study Group 3 Regional Group for the Arab Region
	(SG3RG-ARB)
	+ 20 December 2018 (morning): ITU-T Study Group 3 Regional Group for the Arab Region (SG3RG-ARB)
	+ 20 December 2018 (afternoon): Arab Standardization Team Meeting

**4 Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

**4.1 Specific collaboration with TSB was carried out in the following domains:**

* IoT and Smart Cities:
Regular update and presentation of slides on IoT and Smart Sustainable Cities
ITU-T SG20 activities for ITU Asia-Pacific CoE Online and face to face trainings (e.g. Online training on Distributed Ledger Technologies (Blockchain): Coordination on development and delivery of ITU ASP CoE training on Distributed Ledger Technologies
* Mobile broadband quality of service: Updating of content on Mobile broadband QoS for delivery at ITU ASP CoE training on Mobile Broadband QoS
* Development of three Modules and delivery of online training on Understanding Digital Payments for the Government of India (Niti Aayog/DOT)
* Outreach to Ministers of Cook Islands, Samoa and French Polynesia to find out whether they would be interested in investigating the integration of environmental sensors into the repeaters of future trans-oceanic submarine telecommunications cable systems (Joint Taskforce of ITU, WMO and UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission). Discussions with Chair of the Joint ITU, WMO and UNECSO-IOC Taskforce in Fiji.

**4.2 Contributions to various Forums with TSB input**

* ITU-T SG-13 (with Focus on IMT-2020)
	+ [4th Annual Asia-Pacific Spectrum Management Conference](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2018/ASMC-18/main.aspx)
	+ [Training on Monitoring RF Spectrum in modern wireless era](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2018/SMWE-China/main.aspx)
* ITU-T Study Group 2 (with focus on Global International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) for IoT) and ITU-T SG -20 (IoTs And Smart Cities)
	+ IoT trainings in Indonesia ([Bandung](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2018/IoT-BDG/main.aspx) and Bali)
* ITU-T X.1303 “Common Alerting Protocol (CAP V1.1)
	+ [Pacific Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC) Workshop](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2018/ETC-Pacific/main.aspx)
* U4SSC
	+ ICT for Transformation and Resilience, 30 March 2018, UNESCAP “Smart Sustainable Cities in Asia Pacific, “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific”
* ITU-T SG 13 (with Focus on IMT 2020)
	+ 5G Strategy for Thailand, organized by ITU Academia Member Chulalongkorn University
* ITU-T SG13 and SG15
	+ NOKIA GTTF Get to Fast, Faster 2018 in Bangkok “Digital transformation for inclusive and sustainable development”
* The 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Smart Sustainable Cities and e-Government 2018
	+ <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2018/ssceg2018/home.aspx>

**5 ITU Office for Europe**

The ITU Office for Europe organized the following activities in close collaboration with ITU-T/TSB:

1. **ITU Event on The Future of Cable TV** (25-26 January 2018, Geneva, Switzerland)
This event was jointly organized by BDT and TSB within the context of the European Regional Initiative on "Broadband Infrastructure, Broadcasting and Spectrum Management", whereby assistance is to be provided to countries in need on the assessment of dynamics, challenges and opportunities of diverse broadband technologies across Europe, including cable TV. This event provided an opportunity to discuss cable TV related regional and international standardization and to share of best practices and case studies on Cable TV roll-outs. The event was held back to back with the meeting of ITU-T Study Group 9 “Broadband cable and TV”.
2. **Special ITU Publication on Future of the Cable TV: Trends and Implications**Based on the above mentioned workshop joint BDT/TSB publication was released in October 2018. Publication is available [here](https://www.itu.int/pub/D-GEN-EUROPE.01-2018).
3. **ITU Contribution to the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**(1-2 March 2018, Geneva, Switzerland)

A cross-sectoral contribution of ITU was coordinated by the Europe Office highlighting the leadership of ITU in field of ICT4SDGs, in particular focusing on SDG7, SDG 11, SDG12. The meeting received inputs from ITU-T on Smart Cities and Energy Efficiency.

1. **ITU Workshop on "Multimedia applications and the future of digital society"**(9 July 2018, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

This event was jointly organized by TSB and BDT and was organized back-to-back with the meeting of ITU-T Study Group 16 “Multimedia” (9-20 July). The Workshop was held in the context of the European Regional Initiative on a “Citizen Centric Approach to Building Services for National Administrations”, following which the assistance is to be provided to countries in need in order to facilitate the development of transformative and paperless citizen-centric services that could be accessible and available to all members of the society.

1. **ITU Forum on 5G on "Towards 5G Enabled Gigabit Society"** (11 - 12 October 2018, Athens, Greece)

This Forum was jointly organized by BDT, TSB and BR in the context of the European Regional Initiative on Broadband Infrastructure, Broadcasting and Spectrum Management that works towards facilitating high-speed connectivity with resilient and synergistic infrastructure development, deployment and sharing, whilst ensuring a trusted and quality user experience.

The outcomes of this Forum contributed to the works of ITU on 5G, including those undertaken by the Study Groups of the three Sectors.

1. **ITU-EC Accessible Europe: ICT for ALL** (12-14 December 2018, Vienna, Austria)

This Forum is being organized by BDT with inputs from TSB and BR in context of the Regional Initiative for Europe on “*Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development*” and aiming at bridging the digital divide and equip all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and specific needs, to take advantage of ICT, by enabling capacity building in digital skills. The Forum offers an opportunity for addressing issues relevant to the work carried out under ITU-T Study Group 16 and ITU-D Study Group 1 (Question 7.1).

**6 Regional[[1]](#footnote-1) Office for the Commonwealth of Independent Countries (CIS) Region**

**6.1 Joint events**

In 2018, the ITU Regional Office for CIS contributed to the organization of the following regional events organized by the ITU-T:

* Regional Forum on "Internet of Things, Telecommunication Networks and Big Data as Basic Infrastructure for Digital Economy" (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 4-6 June 2018)
* Meetings of ITU-T Study Group 11 Regional Group for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia (SG11RG-EECAT) and Study Group 20 Regional Group for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia (SG20RG-EECAT) (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation,
4-6 June 2018)
* Regional Workshop on Deployment of VoLTE/ViLTE Networks based on IMS. From Standardization to Implementation (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 2-3 October 2018)

The Regional Office’s support includes: partial provision of fellowships, covering venue and interpretation costs, outreach and promotion, coordination with the host country, engagement of experts from the CIS countries.

**6.2 Other activities of the ITU Regional Office for CIS related to the ITU-T**

* In 2018, the Regional Office engaged the Government of Moscow in cooperation with the ITU-T and contributed to the case study done by ITU/TSB, “Implementing ITU-T International Standards to Shape Smart Sustainable Cities: The Case of Moscow”. The Regional Office committed to translating the case study into Russian.
* The Regional Office promoted ITU-T activities, including sharing ITU-T Recommendations and Technical reports during relevant events organized by the Office and other organizations. The following subjects were covered: MNP, C&I, cybersecurity, future networks, IoT, ITS, DFS, BigData, eHealth.

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1. Decision 605 of ITU Council 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)